



August 16, 2010

IVHInsights

NEWS FROM PERSONNEL SERVICES

by Dennis Mack

STOP SMOKING

The state has made arrangements with Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield to provide resources to assist you to stop smoking. If you are enrolled in a Wellmark health insurance plan you can participate in QuitNet, a free web-based service designed to help you through the quitting process. Services include a personal plan for quitting; 24/7/365 social support from others like you; a science based quitting guide; access to quitting tools; QuitNet cessation counselors; and assistance in helping you select the right type of quitting medication.

For more information go to http://employeehealth.s.iowa.gov/stop_smoking.html

Pictured above: Four Commandants were in attendance for the Change of Leadership Ceremony – Dan Steen, Dennis Mack, Jack Dack, David Worley



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Commandant's Corner

I would like to 1st thank Governor Culver and Lt. Governor Judge for giving me this incredible opportunity. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dennis Mack for agreeing to stay through August 19th, and assist with my transition. Including his time in the Navy, Dennis has given over 37 years of his life to his country and the state of Iowa. He has been a dedicated and loyal servant to the citizens of this wonderful state, and we can all be grateful for his service. In his final week here please show him how much we appreciate what he has done for all of us. Dennis, you will always remain a member of our family and we hope you continue to play a role in our mission as you enjoy your retirement. It is well deserved. Good Luck!!

As you may have read, I have been serving with the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs for the last ten years. While I am new to the IVH, I am not new to serving veterans and their families. I believe that my time at KDVA has prepared me well for this

mission. My responsibilities are simply to provide the best care possible to the residents, and ensure the safety and well-being of the staff. This is only possible by everyone, residents and staff alike, doing their part. Excellent communication from everyone involved is the key to exceptional teamwork.

Along with the residents and staff, there are many others involved in the daily operation of our facility. The families, volunteers, community organizations, elected officials, veteran service organizations, among many others, are critical to our operation. Without them we would be unable to accomplish our mission. I look forward to meeting and working with every one of you for a very long time. I am very confident, that by all of us working together and holding each other accountable, we can make certain that the Iowa Veterans Home remains one of the finest facilities in the nation.

Commandant David Worley

Story City Sons of American Legion Donate to IVH



Pictured left: Representatives from the Story City Sons of the American Legion present a check to IVH Interim Commandant Dennis Mack for \$1,200. This donation will be added to the Recreation Account, the Christmas Gift Account, and the Canteen Book Account



Caring:
Our only reason for being



Heinz Hall Update

by Fred Lembke-

Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist

There were 24 people that recently completed "Living in Balance" (LIB) in FY 09-10, which ended June 30th. LIB is a seven-week program that encompasses many disciplines and is the first step taken by residents interested in Community Re-entry.

Also, several residents who had completed LIB and were enrolled in Community Re-entry decided to leave IVH. They either had jobs, disability payments, social security or sometimes a combination of two of them.

The next LIB begins Monday, September 13th.

IVH Insights is a twice-monthly publication of the Iowa Veterans Home.

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ivhinsights@ivh.state.ia.us

Call ext. 4397 or

send to PR/Mktg Dept.

In Memory of Charlotte Hunt by Jim Elliott

Residents and staff at IVH are mourning the death of Charlotte Hunt this week.

Charlotte began working at IVH June 18, 2003. She has been working in Rehab as a library aide in the Library. Known for her smile and helping attitude, Charlotte was always willing to go that extra mile to help

library patrons find just the right book, CD or DVD. She learned your reading habits and would then make recommendations that were always on the mark. She loved her job in the library and tried not to miss a day because she knew how residents counted on her. Last winter, during a big snowstorm, she called in to report that she was not able to

come to work. The local cab company was not running and she had not been able to change their minds.

Charlotte did not confine her smile

and help to the Library however, as she would volunteer to help with many facility events such as the 4th of July BBQ, Don Laughlin Music Festival and a variety of fund raisers.

In addition to her IVH family, Charlotte had sons and daughters and grandchildren and great grandchildren that she was proud of and loved to

talk about. And many were part of the IVH community as employees and/or volunteers. These family members include former employees daughter, Judy Mason, and son, Jim Hunt, current employees, grand-daughter, Kristy Kelley, Nurse Supervisor 2 on Malloy 2 South, granddaughter-in-law, Candy Hunt, NS1 on Dack 4, granddaughter-in-law, Brenda Frye,

Accounting Tech 2 and two great-grand-daughters, Samantha Hunt, RTW on Sheeler 2 East/3, and Lindsay Lauer, RTW on Dack 3.



Nursing Department Updates by Cindy Halstead

The Nursing Department continues to be a very active and busy area to work in! I want to express my appreciation for those of you who are volunteering to work extra when needed. Even though we continue to be in challenging budgetary times, we are beginning to fill some positions, as you have seen by the recent postings. All of us working together to provide great care for our residents; that personal touch is so important!

One of the projects we have been working on is researching a practical means for determining staffing levels. We are currently implementing a sys-

tem that another State Veterans Home has had experience with. It is based on an intensity tool that each unit will fill out periodically on individual residents. It not only addresses physical needs, but also some of the emotional or mental health needs some residents have. Numerical score results will assist us with assigning the correct number of staff to each unit

There will be additional information coming to you in the next few weeks as we progress with this system. Some of you may be asked to help with this on a unit level.

Facilities Management *by Kathy Shannon*

The changes in the Dack Day Room Expansion Project may not be as noticeable as they have in the past, but the project continues to move along well. The contractor has developed solutions to the challenges that were presented with the height differences in the flooring of 3rd and 4th floors. The concrete topping over the hollow core floor panels will be poured beginning in the next five days. The contractor intends to pour one floor each day when they begin. Within the next two weeks, the cementitious fireproofing will be applied.

Then, the metal stud framing, under floor waste and vent and electrical rough in will begin.

Reminder that the Dayrooms will be offline until next April.



The Phase 1 Project is moving forward at a rapid pace. The last household in the Ulery building is being framed (left). Work is also continuing on all households in the Ulery building, including roofing and masonry. The fire lane and entrance drive have been poured and the concrete color has been selected for the sidewalks. Site lighting is continuing as well as mechanical, electrical, plumbing and drywall in all the households.

The Fox building continues to progress well. The siding and the sidewalks should be completed in the next few days. The fencing will begin on August 15th around the courtyards as well as seeding of grasses. The interior painting has been going well in household #4 and household #3 was scheduled to begin August 2nd. The casework and trim were scheduled to begin August 9th. The selections of art have been made and the contract is under review by DAS; a contract should be in place in the next few days and the artists, masons and drywall installers can begin work on the fireplace areas.

The Dack and Malloy elevators (right) have been underway for several weeks and the first two cars have passed initial inspection. The second set of cars was taken offline August 2nd as the first two came online. To operate the new cars, the user must push the new call button for the new cars and the old call button for the old cars. As the project moves forward and more cars are upgraded, those cars will be tied to the new call button. We will have to use both old and new call buttons until all cars have been completed. At that point, all cars in that building will be tied to the new call button and the old call button will no longer exist.



As people begin to use the new elevators, there may be some questions about why there are no mirrors and why the floor didn't get redone. The contractor informed us that the mirrors that were in the old cars no longer meet code, so we are having new mirrors priced for installation. The contractor has also been asked to submit pricing to install new vinyl flooring in each elevator. The flooring replacement is tentatively scheduled to be conducted at the end of the project, one set of cars at a time. Again, everyone's patience during this time has been appreciated. Thank you to all who have been able and willing to take the stairs.

The Architect is still working on the design for the Dietary Floor Project. The bid process will continue through September. IVH staff and the architect are working very hard to develop plans to relocate the dietary equipment for use while the floor is being completed.



The Bulk Oxygen Relocation project has begun and the contractor is making quick work of this project. The concrete pad is poured (left) and the new tank will be set in the next few days. The new oxygen piping is being installed in the corridors, with a slight detour through the Nursing Resources area. The piping is scheduled to be completed except for the final connection in a few days. The contractor will schedule the final connection so that staff will have enough time to prepare for the bulk oxygen to be offline for several hours. *Photos by Kathy Shannon and Niki Casey.*

Veterans History Project

by Randy Inhelder

The Veterans History Project (VHP) is aimed at collecting and archiving the personal recollections of United States wartime veterans to honor their service and share their stories with current and future generations. Congress created the VHP in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress – one of the world's most respected research and cultural institutions.

Craig Schwartz, a resident of rural Reasnor, has become interested in this project and wants to record the history of Veterans. His father is a veteran of the Korean War and resides in Newton. Craig has offered to videotape and interview any Iowa Veterans Home resident that wants to share their stories. "I am serious about taping interviews with anyone who is willing to share their story. I appreciate the opportunity to save some history before it's too late."

If you or anyone you know is interested in having your story recorded, please contact Lisa Purvis, x4397, or Randy Inhelder, x4385, for further information.





IVH Website Calendar

Submit your event information on the IVH website calendar. It's quick and easy and the calendar is available to staff, residents, and the community. Log on to www.iowaveteranshome.org and click on "Calendar" to begin.

Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon	8/16	10 am	Veterans Day at the Iowa State Fair (Parade)	State Fair Grounds
Mon	8/16		<i>Last day to submit Golden Dome Nominations</i>	
Sat	8/28	2-3 pm	County Line Band performs for residents	Malloy LRC
Mon	8/30	2 pm	IVH Tone Chime Concert	IVH Chapel
Fri	9/17	9:30am-5pm	IVH Annual Fall Employee Golf Outing	Pine Lake Cntry Club

Don't forget to post your events on the IVH Website Calendar
Go to www.iowaveteranshome.org and click on the "Calendar of Events"
Unit, department, staff, resident, and community are welcome

Announcements

We would like to thank everyone at IVH for the phone calls, cards, flowers and support that we have received since the sudden loss of our brother/brother in law. ~ Vicky and Jim Garske & Anita Buffington



Find us on
Facebook

The Iowa Veterans Home is now on Facebook! Become a "friend" of IVH by going to www.facebook.com/iowaveteranshome.

This new communication tool will help us keep in touch with staff (past and present), residents, and friends of the IVH.



Personal Health Assessment: The First Step to a Healthier You *Live Webcast*

Wednesday | August 18 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Good health starts with good information. That's why the Administrative Services and Public Health departments encourage you to complete a **Personal Health Assessment** in order to learn about your current health status, your potential risks, and what you can do to reduce those risks.

The Personal Health Assessment is a confidential questionnaire that collects information about health habits, health information, and biometric information such as cholesterol, blood pressure and glucose levels, and then assesses your readiness to make healthy changes.

Tanya Fish, Wellmark's Health Management Consultant, will present the benefits of completing a **Personal Health Assessment**.

Go to <https://iahrwebinar.ilinc.com/per/ilinc/lms/event.pl> to register.

The more you know about your health, the more you can do to improve it.

Business Services Update *by Greg Wright*

The Kaizen project involving Central Supply, Respiratory Therapy & Quartermaster has resulted in a number of changes that are being implemented as I write this update. The Kaizen team really appreciates the feedback they've been receiving to assist in the fine tuning of the updated processes. As you may know the urgency to change the workflow and organizational change was driven by the staff retirements in the Central Supply work area. **A BIG Thank You** to all who are assisting with mail and item deliveries. It will continue to take all the IVH employee's concentrated effort to ensure time-sensitive mail is delivered between mail routes.